

REMARKS

Favorable reconsideration of this application, in light of the preceding amendments and following remarks, is respectfully requested.

Claims 1 and 20 are pending in this application. Claims 1 and 20 are independent claims.

Applicants note that independent claim 20 should be allowed because there are no outstanding rejections on independent claim 20. Therefore, indication of the allowability of claim 20 is respectfully requested.

Double Patenting Rejections

Claim 1 stands rejected on the ground of nonstatutory obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over Claims 28 and 30-33 of co-pending application 10/220,125, Claims 1-7 and 9 of co-pending application 10/529,749, and Claims 1 and 2 of co-pending application 10/509,248.

Concurrent with the filing of the present Amendment, Applicants submit a Terminal Disclaimer under 37 C.F.R. § 1.321(c). The Applicants, therefore, respectfully request that the rejection to Claim 1 as to nonstatutory obviousness-type double patenting be withdrawn.

CONCLUSION

In view of the above remarks and amendments, the Applicants respectfully submit that each of the pending objections and rejections has been addressed and overcome, placing the present application in condition for allowance. A notice to that effect is respectfully requested. If the Examiner believes that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned.

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.17 and 1.136(a), Applicant(s) hereby petition(s) for a one (1) month extension of time for filing a reply to the outstanding Office Action and submit the required \$120.00 extension fee herewith.


Should there be any outstanding matters that need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact Erin G. Hoffman, Reg. No. 57,752, at the telephone number of the undersigned below.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 08-0750 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Respectfully submitted,

HARNESS, DICKEY, & PIERCE, P.L.C.

By



Donald J. Daley, Reg. No. 34,313
P.O. Box 8910
Reston, Virginia 20195
(703) 668-8000

DJD/EGH:ald